



Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: October 16th, 2019
Time: 7:15PM
Location: 1st floor conference room
Attendees: *Executive committee*: Christopher Tonkin (chair), Doug Greenfield, Jack Johnson, Muris Kobaslija, Doug Mayo-Wells, Adam MacNeill, Scott Smith

Rod Holland, Stephan Miller

Note: Daniel Amstutz, Town of Arlington, did not attend, but submitted notes to be read into the record.

Review/approval of August, September minutes

Update August Police Department report to reflect that 25MPH default speed limit refers to "thickly settled areas"

-- Motion to approve as amended
-- Carries, no opposition

Transportation Advisory Committee update

Met last week, 2 relevant items

1 - Bikeway counts
2 - Discussed bike related comments at town day -speeds on bikeway, bike parking complaints (requests for more, e.g., at school)

Bike lane blockage reporting policy

Nothing new to report

Arlington High School rebuild

Meeting held - Phil Goff wanted more discussion on access to Minuteman bikeway
Initially concerns about direct access were positioned as relating to baseball field requirements
But now raised as a safety concern, easy access to fields during school hours is problematic (allows students to leave school, or unauthorized persons to enter school grounds)
There is also a desire to discourage using the high school as a cut-through from the bikeway to Mass ave

Current plan is to wrap around to scale the grade to the edge of the property
May also consider a flight of stairs down from the bikeway

The architecture team open to considering changes

Acknowledge that design is car centric

Architects have delineated scope - e.g., cycle track on Mass ave would be outside their scope, but they can work with the Town to make sure plans are integrated

Asking for wider sidewalks

Public forum scheduled for October 30th

My consider pedestrian access to Grove st from bikeway (outside of school property)

Discussion of bike parking are ongoing, proposing some amount of sheltered bike parking, possibly with non-sheltered closer to doors; locations, numbers not finalized

Bikeway signage - working group report

Subcommittee met in Lexington to do survey of current signage, proceeded into Arlington Center

Not much cautionary/courtesy signage - only a couple

Intersection / wayfinding signs - fonts were thought to be possibly too small for optimum visibility

There are signs on Mass ave directing bike and pedestrian traffic to the Bikeway

There are good "bike crossing ahead" markings on the roads at grade intersections

New Lexington posts are square, so easy to mount signs on east- and west-facing sides

Subcommittee is working on draft proposal

Has specs of fonts, etc. from Lexington

Lexington signs have Lexington seal, may incorporate Arlington seal into Arlington signage

Proposing stencils on roadway to identify Arlington/Lexington border

Proposing kiosk, signboard at either end of town, possibly in the small park by Mal's towing, and somewhere around Thorndike

By the Uncle Sam statue in Arlington center, signage is still confusing (stop ahead / stop signs, irrelevant stop sign has still not been removed, and there is a missing bit of fence)

Green pavement markings have been repainted, white arrow re-painting still pending.

Working group, Doug M, Rod to explore signage

In lucid English and/or pictogram

Clarify intended bike flow East to Cambridge, West to Lexington

Rod will prepare draft

Lexington speed limits (and implications for Arlington)

Daniel will meet with the Town manager in a few weeks - present pros/cons, a few alternatives
Observed that public input is self-selecting (underrepresents people who have opinions but not strong ones).

need to position discussions for reasonable outcome

Problem: how to hear from commuting users who may not be residents?

Automated counter vs hand counts

Saw some weird bikes!

Automated counts are slightly lower than manual - possibly because of path to field between the manual count location and the automated counter.

Overall, tolerance seems fine.

Sharing data with Lexington, Bedford.

Bike share update

Lime pulling out for winter between Nov 15 and Nov 30 (early snow may accelerate)
pause in all communities from dec 1 to march 15

Bluebikes in Arlington

Applied with Newton, Chelsea, Watertown for state workforce transportation grant - several weeks to hear back

Bluebikes represent weekend tourism opportunity

Bluebikes already observed in Arlington, maybe try to identify them in manual count to set baseline?

How to quantify cost benefits/tradeoffs?

Arlington may be comparable with Brookline - had only 4 stations, now have substantially more

Arlington bike parking guide

Please submit any comments by Friday October 25

Bus/bike lanes in East Arlington

painting in progress, signs are up, should finish by Friday October 18

Green markings at Mass Ave/Mystic have been refreshed, white to follow

Bates rd and River street / bike accommodations, infrastructure plans

Minimalist approach - sharrows would be straightforward

Consider signal time - traffic signal is fixed cycle - could explore concurrent pedestrian/bike cycle

Going further - get rid of parking on one side - might be difficult (resident resistance, etc.)

More broadly, does ABAC want to be more proactive about bicycle infrastructure

identify key corridors - e.g., this is a key route to Medford

roll into strategy plan
infrastructure practices also, e.g., plan to compensate for constriction of roadway due to snow removal

"6Es" vision effort - reconvene, synthesize operational guidelines that can be used to prioritize work
Identify important improvements
Identify quick/easy "low hanging fruit"

Would be great to have more data on where people ride, to inform decision making

Rail trail video link

Sent to Stephanm will be redistributed for posting/sharing to Doug G, Peggy, Tom Fortmann, Suzy, Adam M

Also some broken links on web site - maps are out of date
Doug G will investigate

Producing new safety video

Nothing new to report

Arlington bicycle social

Venue - Kickstand - seemed to work well as venue, turnout was down (but weather was dicey), food good, acoustics not great

Potential topics

Future of bikeway forum?

Bikeshare landscape?

MAPC - all the bike trails vision

Forum - all weather biking techniques?

Short cycling movie

Other Business

Sustainable Transportation Advisory Committee held first meeting, introductions, reviewed goals and objectives, brainstorming exercise to identify areas of concern. Minutes

<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/all-boards-and-committees/sustainable-transportation-advisory-committee/agendas-minutes/-toggle-allpast>

Town day safety survey, 47 respondents, analysis to follow

Social media:

Adam reached out to APD and Douglas Heim (town counsel) about incident camera legality, no response yet
Link broke between Facebook/Twitter

APD vehicle observed on Bikeway this afternoon - up toward heights

Upcoming meetings

November 20th
December 18th
(need to get room booked for 2020)

Motion to adjourn

- adjourned